**Term:** 8-Week Course: Session1  
**Course:** COMM-2302-43430  
**Course Dates:** 1/22/2019 - 3/21/2019  
**Class Location:** Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Instructor:</strong></th>
<th>Lori Dann</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phone:</strong></td>
<td>972-860-7290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:loridann@dccc.edu">loridann@dccc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office &amp; Office Hours:</strong></td>
<td>N-241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A&C Division:** G-Building: Room 138 | 972-860-7124

**Course Drop Date:** February 27, 2019

**Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

**Institutional Policies:** [Eastfield College Institutional Policies](https://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/au/fastfacts/legal/pages/policies-for-syllabi.aspx)

**Course Description**  
This course examines major issues facing the news media in a democratic society and explores journalism’s role in shaping public perception and affecting policy. (3 Lec.)

**Course Goals**  
This is the capstone course for the Mass Communications/Journalism and Mass Communications/Broadcast Journalism fields of study. By the end of this class you should be able to:

- Understand the ethical and legal challenges facing media
- Have a clear understanding of the importance of the First Amendment
- Apply this legal and journalistic ethics knowledge to your own career as a journalist
- Evaluate content using media literacy skills

**Required Materials and Resources For This Course**

- Internet access.
- Ability to stream video content.

Note: This course uses movies to illustrate various legal and ethical challenges facing journalists. You will be required to watch these movies. Most will be provided, but you may be responsible for renting some of these movies or finding them at your local library. Expected cost is no more than $20 for the entire semester.
Student Learning Outcomes
Upon receiving an associate’s degree in a journalism field of study you should be able to show mastery of the following student learning outcomes. Each of these will be taught in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Amendment</th>
<th>Journalism students should value the implications the First Amendment has throughout their journalistic work.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Journalism students should be able to edit and communicate messages verbally and non-verbally for different media outlets and audiences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>News</td>
<td>Journalism students should be able to identify newsworthy events, gather information about the same, and communicate those to audiences of different media outlets after editing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Journalism students should demonstrate the use of different technologies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Journalism students should apply the codes of ethics as well as legal rights and restrictions inherent to their chosen field of journalism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Journalism students should demonstrate research skills throughout their practical and academic course work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Journalism students should discuss the diversity of their professional environment as well as their audiences.</td>
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Coursework
Students will be asked to view a series of movies and submit in-depth response papers. There will also be two current events/news coverage assignments and one discussion, along with a final project and a final exam.

Assignments and Grading

Film Viewing and Response Papers (7)
Students will write 7 response papers (usually a 500-word minimum) based on journalism-based readings and movie assignments. This includes watching several full-length films or documentaries.
75 points each = 525 total points

Introduction, Journalism Discussion, Shadowing Subjects
Students will write one introduction, one discussion board post about the SPJ Code of Ethics, and one discussion board post previewing the subject of their shadowing project.
25 points each = 75 points

Project: Journalist Shadowing & Profile
Students will arrange to meet with a journalist, shadow them on the job, and will write a profile or produce a video that focuses on the journalist’s career. The profile should include at least one, but preferably more, legal or ethical dilemmas encountered by the journalist during his/her career as well as challenges that face him/her on the job. Full details will be uploaded on eCampus.
Note: It is strongly recommended that you choose a journalist who is working in a job you want to do. For example, if you want to be a sports broadcaster, try contacting a sports broadcaster NOW to see if you can shadow him or her. Local pros can be very accommodating if you give them enough notice. Students have been able to shadow some high-profile local newspaper and television/radio pros in this class, but you won’t be able to do so if you wait until the last minute to begin your search.

Value: 200 points

Digital Portfolio & Course Reflection/Career Assessment
Students will compile a digital portfolio of all journalism work completed during their college careers as well as a course reflection and career assessment. These are worth a combined 100 points. Notify the professor if you have not had any work published yet.
Total Value: 100 points

Final Exam
The final exam will involve a news content analysis or journalism-related research essay on a topic chosen by the professor.
Total Value: 100 points

Total Possible Points in Course: 1,000

Grading Scale
A = 900-1,000 points
B = 800-899 points
C = 700-799 points
D = 600-699 points
F = 0-599 points

Deadlines and Missed Assignments/Tests
Late assignments will not be accepted without providing proper documentation or getting prior approval from the instructor. Accommodations will be made for students who miss assignments or tests due to an approved extracurricular activity with the school or an extended illness that is accompanied by a doctor’s note.

Submitting Work
All work must be turned in through eCampus. Due Date are Wednesdays and Sundays each week, except during final exam week. Please do not send any assignments to me through email. If you have any problems submitting, please let me know immediately. To avoid glitches, it’s best not to wait until the last minute to submit assignments.

Response Times: Emails and Grading
As a general rule, you can expect to receive responses to emails within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me at that point, please either resend the email or call my office line at 972-860-7290 and leave a voicemail message in case there has been some sort of technical difficulty. All emails should contain the course and section numbers (COMM 2302-43430) since I teach several other courses each semester. Assignments will be graded as soon as possible, generally within 2 weeks of the due date. If you have any questions about the assignment requirements, you should email me BEFORE the due date. Questions on the evening that assignments are due may not be received on time.
Eastfield College Email Policy
Faculty and students must have and use a DCCCD account* for all correspondence relating to academic coursework. I cannot communicate with you about grades via email unless you are using a DCCCD account. If you do not have a DCCCD account and wish to discuss your grade, you will need to contact me via telephone or set up an appointment to meet on campus.

*For information on setting up a DCCCD student email account, go to: http://www.dcccd.edu/SS/OnlineSvs/Pages/MSOffice.aspx.

IMPORTANT: You may email the instructor through your DCCCD account or through eCampus by clicking on the Send Email option under Tools. DO NOT send messages through Course Messages.

Withdrawing from the Class
If you are considering dropping this class, please contact me immediately. Many times, there might be a better alternative than dropping a class. If we cannot find a more satisfactory solution, then it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to withdraw formally from the course. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of “W” for the Spring 2019 spring semester is February 27. Failure to drop or withdraw officially from a course will result in you receiving no credit for any remaining assignments and will like result in a failing grade for the course. For more information, please follow this link: http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/ari/Drop.asp

Stop Before You Drop
Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Students on Financial Aid
If you are receiving Financial Aid, you must participate in this class prior to the certification date of January 29. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

Institutional Policies and Services
Institutional policies relating to this course can be accessed from the following link: https://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/au/fastfacts/legal/pages/policies-for-syllabi.aspx

Academic Honesty
Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published here: https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/GeneralInfo/CollegePolicies/code.cfm?loc=EFC.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and collusion. *Cheating* includes copying from another student’s work, using unauthorized materials, collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting the contents of an unadministered test, and substituting for another person to take a test or complete an assignment.

*Plagiarism* involves partially or entirely copying an author’s sentences or words and presenting it as your own work in a paper, quiz, blog, or discussion post. You cannot mix the author’s words with your own or “plug” your synonyms into the author’s sentence structure. The author’s words, phrases and sentences must be put in your words, in your style of writing. When you do this, you are demonstrating understanding and comprehension. If you summarize, paraphrase or directly quote from an author, you must use quotation marks and the appropriate documentation because the ‘idea(s)’ still belong to the author. Simply citing a source is not enough when taking information word for word from another source.

*Collusion* is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements.
Plagiarism/Charting/Collusion Penalties
If plagiarism, cheating, or collusion is committed, it will result in a zero on the assignment or test upon the first offense. Second and subsequent offenses may result in other penalties under the college’s Code of Student Conduct.

Obtaining Final Course Grades
Final Grade Reports are not mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report.

Online Learning Conduct and Responsibility
Each student should follow the DCCCD’s policies, procedures, and regulations concerning student conduct. All students shall obey the law, show respect for properly constituted authority, and observe correct standards of conduct. **This class includes discussion about sensitive subjects** including race, gender, violence, and sexual content in the media, and it is important that all students respect their classmates’ opinions.

Key Semester Dates
**Jan 22:** First day of class  
**Jan. 29:** Certification Date. Students who have not submitted an assignment by this date will not be certified as official class members.  
**Feb. 27:** Final day to withdraw with a ‘W’  
**March 11-17:** Spring Break: No Assignments Due  
**March 18-21:** Final Exam week  
**March 25:** Final grades posted on eCampus

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.
## Tentative Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Films and related response papers (75 points each)</th>
<th>Other Assignments</th>
<th>Project and Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1: Jan. 22-27 | * Syllabus  
* SPJ Code of Ethics  
* Chapter 1: Responsible Journalistic Inquiry (The Paper) | Film: The Paper  
Video: Richard Jewell  
**Paper Due Wednesday, Jan. 30** | • Introduction and SPJ Code of Ethics response  
Discussions and comments due Sunday, Jan. 27  
(25 points each) | |
| Week 2: Jan. 28-Feb. 3 | *Chapter 2: Fabrication in Journalism (Shattered Glass)  
* Magazine article on Shattered Glass  
* Two assigned Wikileaks articles | Film: Shattered Glass  
**Paper Due Sunday, Feb. 3** | Journalism Ethics: Wikileaks videos  
**Paper Due Wednesday, Feb. 6** | |
| Week 3: Feb. 4-10 | TBA | Film and Videos: Spotlight  
**Paper Due Sunday, Feb. 10** | | Paragraph on subject of final project and shadowing date  
Due Wednesday, Feb. 13 (25 points) |
| Week 4: Feb. 11-17 | * Assigned readings on Watergate and Investigative Journalism  
* Texas Shield Law Articles | Film: All the President’s Men  
Short video on investigative journalism  
**Paper Due Sunday, Feb. 17** | Journalism Law: Texas Shield Law  
**Paper due Wednesday, Feb. 20** | |
| Week 5: Feb. 18-24 | * Chapter 4: What is Good Work? | Film: Absence of Malice  
**Paper Due Sunday, Feb. 24** | | |
| Week 6: Feb. 25-March 3 | * Chapter 9: Ethics in Black and White (Good Night and Good Luck) | Film: Good Night and Good Luck  
**Paper Due Sunday, March 3** | | Shadowing of media professional should be completed or at least scheduled by Wednesday, March 6 |
| Week 7: March 4-10 | | | | Final Exam due Sunday, March 10 |
| Week 8: March 11-17 | SPRING BREAK NO ASSIGNMENTS | | | |
| Week 9: March 18-21 | | | Digital Portfolio & Career Assessment due Thursday, March 21 | Final Project due Wednesday, March 20 |

- Note: Movie choices may change.